



UK BME ANTI-SLAVERY NETWORK

“The Safe House Is Not Safe”: BASNET Report On Systemic Racism and Intersectional Discrimination in Some UK Government Funded Safe Houses for Survivors of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What are the objectives of BASNET in releasing this report, and how does it seek to collaboratively work towards change?**

A - BASNET seeks to bring attention to the specific challenges faced by BME survivors of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking who reside in government funded safe houses. Our ultimate goal is to trigger positive changes in policy and practice, and foster a more equitable and inclusive environment for all survivors within the National Referral Mechanism, no matter their race and background.

- 2. Are the issues raised in the report reflective of all safe houses?**

A - The report specifically highlights concerns raised by participants in our consultative meetings who are survivors housed in government-funded safe houses, shedding light on their personal experiences of inadequate service provisions, racism, and discrimination. While the focus is on these specific safe houses that house our participants, the overarching aim is to encourage improvements across the broader spectrum of safe houses to ensure comprehensive and inclusive support for all survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking.

- 3. What are the immediate next steps following the release of the report?**

A - BASNET has invited key stakeholders, including the Salvation Army, Home Office, and victim care subcontractors and other charities to a meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to facilitate discussions on the report, with a focus on improvement, change and a positive way forward.

- 4. How representative are the findings, given that only 13 survivors were consulted? Is this a comprehensive reflection of the situation in numerous safe houses?**

A - While the report is based on consultations with 13 survivors, the aim was to document their diverse perspectives and experiences. This has not been done before. The findings are intended to provide insights into common challenges faced by Black and Ethnic survivors in government-funded safe houses. We believe a more comprehensive and academic research project will further help to explore the issues raised in our report.

5. If the report aims to hold government-funded safe houses accountable, how many and which safe houses is it addressing?

A - To safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of the lived experience experts consulted, the report refrains from disclosing specific details, including the identities and locations of the relevant safe houses. The focus is on addressing systemic issues rather than singling out individual facilities.

**BASNET – THE UK BME ANTISLAVERY NETWORK
MARCH 2024**